

REMARKS

By the above amendment, new dependent claims 26-29 have been added which recite features illustrated in Figs. 25 and 26 of the drawings and described at page 76, for example, of the specification.

Applicants note that the Examiner indicates that the Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 has been received and entered, but contends that Exhibit 3 which is a copy of Exhibit 1 with an English Translation has not been received by office (only Exhibit 1 and 2 with a Japanese character in the file). The Examiner request applicants to re-submit such Exhibit in order to give the Examiner an opportunity to fully consider applicants' declaration.

Applicants note that as indicated on the attached copy of the postcard receipt, the Declaration and Exhibits 1-3 were submitted on May 29, 2003. Applicants note that Exhibit 3 was the last page of the Declaration and accompanying Exhibits and apparently has either become loss or misplaced in the records of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In any event, submitted herewith is a copy of Exhibit 3 which presents an English language translation of Exhibit 1 and which bears in the lower left-hand corner the date indication of "Nov. 14, 1996" representing the date of submission of Exhibits 1 and 2 to the inventor Ohta's supervisor. Thus, applicants submit that the Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 and accompanying Exhibits 1-3 are sufficient to establish invention of the subject matter of the claims of this application at least as of the November 14, 1996 which is also the U.S. filing date of Hirakata et al. Accordingly, applicants submit that Hirakata et al is not properly utilizable in rejecting claims of this application under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 35 U.S.C. 103, and the rejections utilizing Hirakata et al alone or in combination with other cited art necessarily fall.

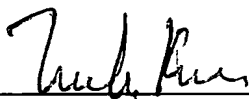
As to the rejection of claims 9 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirakata et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,977,562; the rejection of claims 15-

25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirakata et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,977,562; and the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10-11 as being unpatentable over Hirakata et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,977,562, in view of Raynes, U.S. Patent No. 4,084,884; such rejections are traversed for the reasons given above that U.S. Patent No. 5,977,562 to Hirakata et al is not properly utilizable in rejecting claims of this application in light of the Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 and the accompanying Exhibits. Thus, applicants submit that the rejections as set forth necessarily fall, and all claims present in this application should now be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants submit that all claims present in this application patentably distinguish over the cited art and should now be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, issuance of an action of a favorable nature is courteously solicited.

To the extent necessary, applicant's petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (501.37242CX2) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



Melvin Kraus
Registration No. 22,466
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

MK/cee
(703) 312-6600

